



Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture

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June Crop Acreages

All wheat seeded acreage in Montana is estimated to be 5.71 million acres, up 540,000 acres from last year. Spring wheat producers seeded an estimated 2.50 million acres, up 2 percent from last year and up 50,000 acres from March intentions. Acres intended for harvest, at 2.45 million, are up 2 percent from the previous year. The condition of the spring wheat crop for the week ending June 22 was rated 10 percent excellent, 52 percent good, 31 percent fair, 5 percent poor, and 2 percent very poor. Spring wheat crop progress is behind last year, but on pace with the 5-year average. Thirty-eight percent of the spring wheat crop has reached the boot stage and 12 percent of the crop is headed. Winter wheat acreage seeded dropped 100,000 acres from the March 1 estimate to 2.6 million acres, but is up 16 percent from last year. Producers are expecting to harvest 2.45 million acres, down 150,000 acres from the previous forecast, but up 260,000 acres from last year. The condition of the winter wheat crop is rated 16 percent excellent, 35 percent good, 37 percent fair, 11 percent poor and 1 percent very poor for the week ending June 22. The winter wheat crop development is behind last year and the 5-year average with 78 percent in the boot stage and 46 percent headed. Durum wheat seeded acreage, at 610,000, is up 130,000 acres from a year ago, but down 20,000 acres from the March intended plantings. Acreage of durum wheat intended for harvest is estimated at 605,000 acres, up 27 percent from last year.

Montana barley growers seeded an estimated 910,000 acres, which is up 1 percent from last year and 50,000 acres above March intentions. Barley growers intend to harvest 780,000 acres for grain this year, which is 8 percent above the previous year. Planted acreage for oats, at 65,000 acres, is down 10,000 acres from the previous year, but up 10,000 acres from the March intentions. Growers intend to harvest 35,000 acres for grain, unchanged from a year ago.

Montana hay producers expect to harvest an estimated 2.65 million acres of all hay, 100,000 acres above last year. Of the total hay expected for harvest, 1.65 million acres are expected to be alfalfa hay, which is unchanged from last year. Producers expect to harvest 1.0 million acres of other hay, which is up 100,000 acres from a year ago.

Montana corn growers planted an estimated 65,000 acres, down 19,000 acres from a year ago, and down 13,000 acres from the March 1 intentions. Acreage intended for harvest as grain, at 22,000 acres, is down 16,000 acres from a year ago. Sugar beet producers planted an estimated 31,600 acres, down 15,900 acres from 2007 and down 4,200 acres from March intentions. Producers intend to harvest 31,200 acres, down 34 percent from 2007.

Farmers in Montana planted an estimated 16,000 acres of dry beans in 2008, down 13 percent from last year and down 13,000 acres from March intentions. Producers are expecting to harvest 14,500 acres of dry beans this year, 13 percent below a year ago.

Flaxseed growers in Montana planted an estimated 10,000 acres this year, down 11,000 from last year's acreage, and down 4,000 acres from March 1 intentions. Producers intend to harvest 9,000 acres of flaxseed this year, down from 20,000 acres last year.

Canola producers planted an estimated 10,000 acres for 2008, up 2,000 acres from last year and up 6,000 acres from March intentions. They expect to harvest 9,500 acres, up 1,800 acres from 2007. Safflower producers planted an estimated 32,000 acres, down 6,000 acres from 2007 and expect to harvest 30,500 acres, down 6,000 acres from last year.

For the U.S., all wheat planted area is estimated at 63.5 million acres, up 5 percent from 2007. The 2008 winter wheat planted area, at 46.6 million acres, is 4 percent above last year but down slightly from the previous estimate. Of this total, about 31.9 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 11.0 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.7 million acres are White Winter. Area harvested for grain is forecasted at 40.3 million acres, up slightly from the June forecast and up 12 percent from last year. Area planted to other spring wheat for 2008 is estimated at 14.2 million acres, up 7 percent from 2007. Of this total, about 13.4 million

acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. Grain area is expected to total 13.8 million acres, up 6 percent from 2007. Durum wheat planted area for 2008 is estimated at 2.66 million acres, up 24 percent from last year's level. Area harvested for grain is expected to total 2.58 million acres, 22 percent above 2007.

Barley growers seeded 4.13 million acres for 2008, up 3 percent from the 4.02 million acres seeded last year. Acres for harvest, at 3.64 million, are up 4 percent from 2007. Planted acres increased from the previous year in the top two producing States

Oats area planted is estimated at 3.47 million acres, showing a continued decline from the 3.76 million acres planted in 2007. This 8 percent decrease from the previous year will bring the oat crop to another record low level. Oat acres planted declined or remained unchanged in 23 States and increased in 7 States

Producers expect to harvest 60.4 million acres of all hay in 2008, down 2 percent from 2007. Harvested area is expected to decrease from last year throughout the Great Plains and the West. Increased acres are expected to be harvested along the East Coast. Expected harvested area of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures, at 20.8 million acres, is down 4 percent from 2007. All other types of hay totals 39.7 million acres, down 1 percent from the 40.0 million acres harvested in 2007.

The 2008 corn planted area for all purposes is estimated at 87.3 million acres, down 7 percent from last year when corn planted area was the highest since 1944. Despite the decrease, planted acreage is the second highest since 1946, behind last year, as high prices continue to provide incentive to plant corn. Growers expect to harvest 78.9 million acres for grain, down 9 percent from last year when harvested area was the highest since 1933. If realized, this would be the second highest since 1944, behind last year. Farmers responding to the survey indicated that 97 percent of the intended corn acreage had been planted at the time of the interview compared with the 10-year average of 98 percent. Planted acreage decreased from last year in most States as favorable prices for other crops, high fertilizer prices, and a return to normal crop rotation patterns influenced some farmers to plant fewer acres to corn. (continued on page two)

June Crop Acreages (continued from page one)

Sugar beets area planted totals 1.08 million acres, down 15 percent from 2007. The area for harvest is forecast at 1.03 million acres, down 18 percent from 2007. Planted acres decreased from 2007 in all States except Colorado.

U.S. dry bean growers intend to plant 1.40 million acres in 2008, down slightly from the March 1 forecast and down 8 percent from 2007. Acres to be harvested in 2008 are estimated at 1.34 million acres, down 9 percent from last year. The decrease in planted acres can be attributed in part to strong prices for competing crops. Twelve of the 18 dry bean States decreased planted acreage from last year, two are unchanged, and four increased acres from 2007.

Area planted to flaxseed in 2008 totaled 340,000 acres, down 4 percent from last year's total of 354,000 acres. Area for harvest is forecast at 333,000 acres, down 5 percent from 2007.

Canola producers planted 1.01 million acres in 2008, down 15 percent from 2007. Planted area decreased from last year in Minnesota and North Dakota

Planted area of safflower increased 6 percent from 2007, to 191,000 acres in 2008. Area for harvest is forecast at 183,000 acres, up 6 percent from last year.

U.S. Sweet Cherry Production

U.S. sweet cherry production is forecast at 249,580 tons, down 23 percent from 2007 and 15 percent below 2006.

The Washington crop forecast of 100,000 tons is unchanged from the June forecast. The forecast is 41 percent below the 2007 production and 40 percent below the production in 2006. Cool temperatures during bloom inhibited bee activity and pollination, then a mid-April frost severely damaged a large portion of the sweet cherry crop.

Production in California is forecast at 86,000 tons, 1 percent higher than the 2007 production and 104 percent above 2006. The California forecast is carried forward from June. Cool temperatures and light rain were beneficial to fruit growth.

Oregon production is forecast at 35,000 tons, unchanged from the previous forecast and 2007 production but 36

percent below the production in 2006. Projected production levels varied considerably among growers in different regions.

The Michigan crop is forecast at 25,000 tons, 8 percent below the 2007 production but 25 percent higher than the 2006 crop. Multiple spring frosts damaged some cherry orchards, resulting in reduced yields.

Idaho is expecting a sweet cherry crop of 2,100 tons, up 40 percent from last year but 45 percent lower than 2006. Despite a mid-April frost, the sweet cherry crop is expected to be higher than last year.

New York production is forecast at 1,030 tons, 13 percent below the 2007 crop but 7 percent higher than 2006. A cold start to the season and dry conditions in some areas reduced yields.

Utah production is expected to total 450 tons, down 64 percent from 2007 and down 75 percent from 2006. Frosts and cold summer temperatures decimated flower buds.

June 1, 2008 Crop Production Forecast, Montana and U.S.

Crop	Unit	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested	
		2007	2008 1/	2007	2008 1/
		(000) Acres		(000) Acres	
Winter Wheat	Bu	2,240.0	2,600.0	2,190.0	2,450.0
Durum Wheat	Bu	480.0	610.0	475.0	605.0
Spring Wheat	Bu	2,450.0	2,500.0	2,400.0	2,450.0
All Wheat	Bu	5,170.0	5,710.0	5,065.0	5,505.0
Barley	Bu	900.0	910.0	720.0	780.0
Oats	Bu	75.0	65.0	35.0	35.0
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu	84.0	65.0	38.0	22.0
Sugar Beets	Tons	47.5	31.6	47.0	31.2
Dry Beans	Cwt	18.3	16.0	16.6	14.5
Canola	Lbs	8.0	10.0	7.7	9.5
Flaxseed	Bu	21.0	10.0	20.0	9.0
Safflower	Lbs	38.0	32.0	36.5	30.5
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,650.0	1,650.0
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	900.0	1,000.0
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,550.0	2,650.0
UNITED STATES		(000) Acres		(000) Acres	
Winter Wheat	Bu	44,987.0	46,605.0	35,952.0	40,252.0
Durum Wheat	Bu	2,149.0	2,655.0	2,112.0	2,583.0
Spring Wheat	Bu	13,297.0	14,197.0	12,947.0	13,751.0
All Wheat	Bu	60,433.0	63,457.0	51,011.0	56,586.0
Barley	Bu	4,020.0	4,130.0	3,508.0	2,640.0
Oats	Bu	3,760.0	3,467.0	1,505.0	1,443.0
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu	93,600.0	87,327.0	86,542.0	78,940.0
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,268.8	1,080.1	1,246.8	1,027.3
Dry Beans	Cwt	1,526.9	1,398.0	1,478.7	1,339.2
Canola	Lbs	1,183.0	1,008.0	1,163.0	979.0
Flaxseed	Bu	354.0	340.0	349.0	333.0
Safflower	Lbs	180.0	191.0	172.0	183.0
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	21,670.0	20,778.0
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	39,955.0	39,661.0
All Hay	Ton	--	--	61,625.0	60,439.0

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. Not published.

May Egg Production Down 1 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.57 billion during May 2008, down 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.43 billion table eggs, and 1.15 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.08 billion were broiler-type and 68 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during May 2008 averaged 340 million, down 1 percent from last year. May egg production per 100 layers was 2,226 eggs, unchanged from May 2007.

All layers in the U.S. on June 1, 2008 totaled 340 million, down slightly from last year. The 340 million layers consisted of 280 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 57.0 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.79 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on June 1, 2008, averaged 71.7 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from June 1, 2007.

June 1, 2008 Grain Stocks

All wheat stocks in Montana on June 1, 2008 were 18.9 million bushels, down 38 percent from a year ago. All wheat stocks stored on the farm amounted to 5.8 million bushels, down 68 percent from a year ago and the lowest stored on farm since 1996. All wheat stored off farm amounted to 13.1 million bushels, up 5 percent from a year ago. All wheat

disappearance for the March - May 2008 quarter was 24.2 million bushels, down 37 percent from 38.5 million bushels last year.

Montana barley stocks in all positions on June 1, 2008 were 8.6 million bushels, down 29 percent from a year ago. Barley stored on farm was 2.45 million bushels, down 30 percent from the previous year. Off-farm storage of barley, at 6.18 million bushels, was down 28 percent from last year. Barley disappearance for the March - May 2008 quarter, at 8.1 million bushels, was down 23 percent from last year's 10.6 million bushels. Oats stocks in all positions were 800,000 bushels, down 7 percent from last year and the lowest total stocks since 1998. On-farm oat stocks were 750,000 bushels, down 6 percent from a year ago. Oats stored off farm were down 17 percent from last year to 50,000 bushels.

All wheat stored in all positions on June 1, 2008 totaled 306 million bushels, down 33 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 25.6 million bushels, down 65 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks, at 280 million bushels, are down 27 percent from a year ago. The March - May 2008 indicated disappearance is 404 million bushels, up 1 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Durum wheat stocks in all positions on June 1, 2008 totaled 8.29 million bushels, down 61 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks, at 2.35 million bushels, are down 74 percent from June 1, 2007. Off-farm stocks totaled 5.94 million bushels, down 52 percent from a year ago. The March - May 2008 indicated disappearance of 16.9 million bushels is down 3 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Barley stocks in all positions on June 1, 2008 totaled 68.2 million bushels, down 1 percent from June 1, 2007. On-farm stocks are estimated at 9.95 million bushels, 32 percent below a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 58.3 million bushels, are 7 percent above June 1, 2007. The March - May 2008 indicated disappearance is 42.2 million bushels, 12 percent below the same period a year earlier.

Oats stored in all positions on June 1, 2008 totaled 66.8 million bushels, 32 percent above the stocks on June 1, 2007. Of the total stocks on hand, 16.1 million bushels are stored on farms, 13 percent lower than a year ago. Off-farm stocks totaled 50.7 million bushels, 57 percent above the previous year. Indicated disappearance during March - May 2008 totaled 12.2 million bushels, compared with 20.5 million bushels during the same period a year ago.

June 1, 2008 Grain Stocks

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Jun. 1, 2007	Mar. 1, 2008	Jun. 1, 2008	'08/'07	Jun. 1, 2007	Mar. 1, 2008	Jun. 1, 2008
	Thousand Bushels		Percent		Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	18,000	23,000	5,800	32%	73,190	91,990	25,635
Off Farms 1/	12,490	20,100	13,110	105%	382,963	617,280	279,983
TOTAL	30,490	43,100	18,910	62%	456,153	709,270	305,618
DURUM WHEAT 2/							
On Farms 3/	--	--	--	--	8,950	8,100	2,350
Off Farms 1/, 3/	--	--	--	--	12,430	17,058	5,938
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	21,380	25,158	8,288
BARLEY							
On Farms	3,500	6,000	2,450	70%	14,580	28,270	9,950
Off Farms 1/	8,590	10,720	6,180	72%	54,300	82,154	58,275
TOTAL	12,090	16,720	8,630	71%	68,880	110,424	68,225
OATS							
On Farms	800	900	750	94%	18,400	31,000	16,100
Off Farms 1/	60	60	50	83%	32,198	47,988	50,704
TOTAL	860	960	800	93%	50,598	78,988	66,804
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	1,826,600	3,780,000	1,970,900
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	1,706,843	3,078,722	2,057,117
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	3,533,443	6,858,722	4,028,017

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Included in all wheat. 3/ Not published in order to avoid disclosing individual operations.

U.S. May Milk Production

Milk production in the 23 major States during May totaled 15.4 billion pounds, up 3.4 percent from May 2007. April revised production at 14.8 billion pounds, was up 2.6 percent from April 2007. The April revision represented an increase of 6 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,816 pounds for May, 25 pounds above May 2007. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.46 million head, 162,000 head more than May 2007, and 12,000 head more than April 2008.

U.S. June 1 Potato Stocks

The 13 major potato States held 58.7 million cwt of potatoes in storage June 1, 2008, up 32 percent from a year ago and 41 percent above June 1, 2006. Potatoes in storage accounted for 15 percent of the 2007 fall storage States' production, up 3 percentage points from last year. Disappearance from the start of harvest to June 1 was at 341 million cwt, 1 percent below last year but up 3 percent from 2006. Shrink and loss, at 24.6 million cwt, was down 4 percent from the same period in 2007 but up 4 percent from 2006. Processors have used 176 million cwt of the 2007 potato crop so far this season, down 3 percent from last year's season-to-date usage but up 5 percent from 2 years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon total processing decreased 1 percent from a year ago and Maine's total processing was 4 percent below 2007. Washington and the rest of Oregon total processing was 4 percent lower than last season. Dehydrating usage accounted for 37.5 million cwt of the total processing, down 8 percent from last year but 10 percent above the same period in 2006.

May 2008 Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 0.8 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during May 2008, down 23 percent from May 2007 and down 6 percent from April 2008. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,000 head, 300 head below one year ago. The average live weight, at 1,189 pounds, decreased 31 pounds from last year.

During May there were 600 hogs slaughtered, 200 head below a year ago. The average live weight, at 255 pounds, was down 7 pounds from last year. May sheep slaughter in the state totaled 200 head, up 100 head from May 2007. The average live weight decreased 30 pounds to 94 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.22 billion pounds in May, up 4 percent from the 4.08 billion pounds produced in May 2007. Beef production, at 2.38 billion pounds, was 4 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.14 million head, up 3 percent from May 2007. The average live weight was up 19 pounds from the previous year, at 1,251 pounds.

Veal production totaled 11.5 million pounds, 7 percent below May a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 71,100 head, up 21 percent from May 2007. The average live weight was down 74 pounds from last year, at 275 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.82 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.06 million head, up 3 percent from May 2007. The average live weight was down 1 pound from the previous year, at 268 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.0 million pounds, was down 3 percent from May 2007. Sheep slaughter totaled 206,400 head, 6 percent below last year. The average live weight was 146 pounds, up 4 pounds from May a year ago.

January to May 2008 commercial red meat production was 21.0 billion pounds, up 7 percent from 2007. Accumulated beef production was up 4 percent from last year, veal was down 11 percent, pork was up 11 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

U.S. Cattle on Feed

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.8 million head on June 1, 2008. The inventory was 4 percent below June 1, 2007 and 3 percent below June 1, 2006.

Placements in feedlots during May totaled 1.90 million, 12 percent below 2007 and slightly below 2006. Net placements were 1.82 million head. During May, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 340,000, 600-699 pounds were 350,000, 700-799 pounds were 564,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 645,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during May totaled 2.14 million, 3 percent above 2007 but 1 percent below 2006. Other disappearance totaled 80,000 during May, 19 percent below 2007 and 30 percent below 2006.

U.S. Hog Inventory

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on June 1, 2008 was 67.7 million head. This was up 6 percent from June 1, 2007, and up 1 percent from March 1, 2008.

Breeding inventory, at 6.07 million head, was down 1 percent from last year, and down 1 percent from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 61.6 million head, was up 7 percent from last year, and up 1 percent from last quarter.

The March-May 2008 pig crop, at 29.0 million head, was up 4 percent from 2007 and up 9 percent from 2006. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 3.09 million head, up 2 percent from 2007 and up 6 percent from 2006. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 51 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.38 for the March-May 2008 period, compared to 9.20 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.70 to 9.40.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 3.07 million sows farrow during the June-August 2008 quarter, down 2 percent from the actual farrowings during the same period in 2007, but up 5 percent from 2006. Intended farrowings for September-November 2008, at 3.05 million sows, are down 4 percent from 2007 but up 3 percent from 2006.

The total number of hogs under contract owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 41 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 39 percent last year.

COMING IN THE NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received	Lentils
Sweet Cherry Production	Potato Acreage
Small Grains Production	Wheat Supply & Demand
Austrian Winter Peas	
Dry Edible Peas	

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